



## MAP OF VIRGINIA IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE COLONY, MADE BY CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.



## Founding of the Colony Out of Which America Has Grown. By WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

"The Anglo-Saxon camel got his nose into the American tent at Jamestown on the 13th day of May, 1607," as I heard Senator Daniel express it some years ago. The camel was two centuries getting the whole tent to himself. His final success was but the culmination of the entrance of his nose when the English adventurers founded their town on the James and established in the New World the first permanent settlement of people of their race.

It is small wonder that the tercentennial of the founding of the settlement of Jamestown should be made the occasion of a celebration, in which the States and the Federal government—the nation, if you please—have united to show to the world the progress, the mighty growth, the dazzling wealth, the irresistible power of America. There is not in all our history as a people a date so appropriate for such a celebration, and it is to be doubted whether in the history of the race of English-speaking people there is an event of such far-reaching consequence as the founding of the colony at Jamestown. The anniversary of the battle of Hastings, when Norman power overthrew Saxon Harold, and superimposed a Romance civilization upon the structure reared by our Teutonic forefathers; the granting of Magna Charta; the accession of the Lord Protector; the dethronement of James; the enactment of the reform bill; and initiation of the policy of a responsible ministry—all these are dates cherished by Englishmen and their descendants on this side the Atlantic, just as we cherish the date of our Declaration of Independence, of its final achievement at Yorktown, of the adoption of our Federal Constitution, and a dozen others marked in letters of red in our national calendar.

But had the Norman never set foot on English soil, Jamestown would have been founded, probably at an earlier date than 1607, for the restless, roving Saxon was ever seeking a new field of adventure and endeavor. The principles guaranteed by Magna Charta were demanded at an early day by the colonists at Jamestown, but these hardy pioneers from the first went much further than the barons, and demanded and enforced rights and applied principles of free government unheard of in all the world until Jamestown was founded. And so it was that when Thomas Jefferson sat him down to write the immortal declaration of principles he only had to put into concrete form a statement of inalienable rights recognized by the Great Charter, as amended by Englishmen and Anglo-Americans in the Colony of Virginia.

**PERIOD OF STIRRING INCIDENTS.**

There is no period in history so interesting to the American as that beginning a few years prior to the settlement of Jamestown, and ending a half-century afterwards. It is one so filled with stirring incident that it enthralls by means of the world-old love of tales of adventure by sea and by land, and it is because of this primal love of stories of dangers encountered and obstacles overcome, of courage in the face of disaster, of reckless bouts with death, of steady advancement in the accomplishment of a

fixed purpose, that it has become so familiar to all Americans, although the story of Plymouth Rock, instead of Jamestown, for a long time claimed greater space in American histories.

I cannot hope to tell anything new in this story, nor to do more than set down salient facts of the old story. But it is a good time for all Virginians and all Americans to refresh the mind with the outlines of the genesis of Virginia, which is the genesis of America.

Had Vasco da Gama discovered the Cape of Good Hope before Columbus found this western continent, the voyage of the latter to the west in search of a route to India which would enable navigators to avoid the pirates of the Mediterranean and north-west coast of Africa, would have been long delayed. Columbus blazed the way, but the English were quick to take advantage of his discoveries, and five years afterwards the Cabots were flying the English flag off Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador, and in later voyages they came down as far as the coast of Virginia, some historians claim as far as Florida. The Spanish, the French and the Portuguese were equally eager in seizing upon the discovery of America and sending forth expeditions of discovery. The French made abortive attempts at founding a colony in Canada and New England long before Jamestown was founded, and the Spaniards founded St. Augustine forty-nine years prior to the landing of John Smith upon the site of the first permanent English settlement on the new continent. Martin Frobisher, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and other hardy spirits, under the flag of England, made expeditions to Northern America, all of them looking for gold, some of them carrying back to England bright bits of pebble, whose gleam they thought that of the precious metal. Sir Walter Raleigh actually set up a colony at Ocracoke Inlet, North Carolina, in 1584-'5; but the colonists paid too much attention to gold-seeking and not enough to cultivating the land, and when Sir Francis Drake sailed off the coast with a squadron of English vessels, on his way home from an expedition against the Spanish in southern waters, they were only too glad to get aboard and go back home. But it was while following a band of Indians, leading them to the northward, in 1584, that the colonists discovered Chesapeake Bay.

**COLONY THAT DISAPPEARED.**

In 1587 Raleigh founded his colony on Roanoke Island, off the North Carolina coast. The colony seemed to be thriving when Raleigh left it, but on the return of the vessel, a year or so later, there was not a trace of the colony to be found, and its mysterious disappearance has never been explained, and has furnished the basis of many poems and stories of fiction.

Raleigh was not daunted by the failure of his Roanoke venture. It was a good time to find adventurers willing to go to a new world and found a state. The exceedingly pacific character of James, contrasted with the warlike spirit of Elizabeth, was not pleasing to the martial characters who had found constant

employment under the virgin Queen, and they were eager to seek excitement in the wilds of America.

Bartholomew Gosnold, a man of rank and intelligence, tried for several years to interest capitalists in his proposed venture in Virginia. Finally he attracted the attention and excited the interest of Captain John Smith, a man who had seen more adventures than any other character of his time, and also enlisted the interest and capital of Edward Maria Wingfield, merchant; Rev. Robert Hunt, a godly man in poor health, and Sir John Popham, and Richard Hakluyt, the distinguished compiler of adventures of mariners—the Clark Russell of his time. These men formed the company to send out the expedition, and finally succeeded in starting for the western world one hundred and five men on board the Godspeed, the Susan Constant and the Discovery. The largest of the vessels was only of 100 tons burden, next in size was 40 tons, and the smallest in which these hardy spirits braved the perils of the deep was a mere pinnace of probably 10 tons.

**JUST THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.**

The voyage was not fraught with much of interest until the West Indies had been passed, when heavy weather was encountered, and when the coast of Virginia did not show up, Captain Ratcliffe, in command of the pinnace, declared his intention of turning back, thus early in the history of the enterprise indicating a spirit which afterwards gave so much trouble. Before the others had settled with him a storm came up and drove them to the westward, and on the morning of the 26th of April, 1607, when light came, the mariners encountered the coast lying between what is now Cape Henry and Virginia Beach.

It was but natural that some of the party should wish to go ashore, and thirty men landed near the site of the present light-house on Cape Henry, which was thus named on that day. But the adventurous party did not linger long. They were attacked by Indians, and two of the whites were severely wounded. It is a matter of regret that the management of the expedition, or some enterprising concessionaire, has not arranged to present a series of moving pictures designed to give a lifelike reproduction of that foot-race back to the boats, probably the first athletic event participated in by white men on this continent.

It was in commemoration of this landing at Cape Henry that the date of the opening of the Jamestown Exposition was fixed for the 26th of April.

The party entered the capes, naming the one to the north Cape Charles, in honor of the Prince of Wales, and proceeded leisurely up the bay. It is known they went ashore at what is now Old Point, and it is not improbable that some of them landed on the other side of Hampton Roads, the site of the exposition opened yesterday. Evidently the topography of the country did not commend itself to the leaders of the expedition, who had learned that it would be necessary to locate where it would be

possible to defend themselves against the Indians, who had not been in the least cordial in their reception thus far. When the party landed at Old Point they opened the box in which were the papers naming the council to rule the colony. The ruling council was composed of Bartholomew Gosnold, John Smith, Edward Maria Wingfield, Christopher Newport, John Ratcliffe, John Martin and George Kendall.

**THE FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN.**

The party proceeded up the James, and on the 13th of May, landed on a peninsula, since become, through the erosion of the water, an island, and thus founded the city of Jamestown and the Colony of Virginia. After prayer by Rev. Mr. Hunt, Wingfield was chosen president of the Council, and he proceeded in the good American way to make a speech, thanking his comrades for the honor conferred upon him. Since that was the first speech made on American soil by a man elected to office, it is unfortunate that not even a fragment of it is preserved, as there is no means of knowing how far successful candidates of to-day have departed from the early model given them by Edward Wingfield.

The seven members of the Council went to work at once to build a fort, and the rest of the party proceeded to cut down the trees to give a space in which to pitch the tents. In a day or two Indians appeared, and as they were entirely peaceable, the Englishmen received them kindly.

Richmond people, and Virginians generally, may regard it as significant that Newport and Smith were not long at Jamestown before they made up a party of twenty and started for Richmond, going by boat. John Smith has left this account of the city of Powhatan, at the falls of the Powhatan, which the English named the James in honor of the English King:

"Powhatan is a town of some twelve houses, seated pleasantly on a hill, before it three fertile isles, about it many of their cornfields. The place is very pleasant and strong by nature. Of this place the Prince is called Powhatan, & his people Powhatans. To this place the river is navigable; but higher within a mile, by reason of the Rocks and Isles, there is not passage for a small boat. This they call the Falls. The people in all parts kindly intreated them (us) till being returned within twenty miles of Jamestown, they gave just cause of jealousies; but had not God blessed the discoveries otherwise than at the Fort there had been an end of that plantation."

For while Smith and Newport and their party were away the fort at Jamestown was attacked by the Indians, and seventeen of the white men were wounded and a boy slain. It is probable that the whites retreated to the boats as fast as possible, for the historian says a "cross-barre" fired from the ship frightened the Indians so badly they ran away. Wingfield had been opposed to mounting the artillery at the fort for some reason, but he

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